

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6399
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL FLORENCE
AMCONSUL GENOA
AMCONSUL MILAN
AMCONSUL NAPLES
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, IT
SUBJECT: DC REBUTS "DISTORTED" PCI POLITICAL INTERPRETATIONS
OF PROGRAM

REF: ROME 12608

SUMMARY: IN AN AUTHORITATIVE STATEMENT OF CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT
(DC) PARTY POLICY, PARTY SECRETARY ZACCAGNINI LABELED
AS "DISTORTED" PCI INTERPRETATIONS OF THE PROGRAM ACCORD
AS THE FIRST STEP TOWARD FORMATION OF A NEW GOVERMENT
MAJORITY. HE RULED OUT A DC-PCI ALLIANCE AS "UNTHINKABLE"
AND CALLED ON THE DC TO OPPOSE PCI (AND PSI) EFFORTS "TO
BROADEN THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE ACCORD." DC LEADERS HAVE
DOWNPLAYED LAST WEEK'S SURPRISE MEETING
BETWEEN PRIME MINISTER ANDREOTTI AND THE PARTY SECRETARIES,
CHOOSING TO EMPHASIZE ITS EXCEPTIONAL NATURE DURING PARLIAMENT'S
RECESS WHILE MAKING CLEAR THEIR OPPOSITION TO PERIODIC

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GOVERMENT-PARTY MEETINGS ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
PROGRAM ACCORD. END SUMMARY.

1. IN VIEW OF THE CONTINUING DEBATE OVER INTERPRE-
TATION OF THE PROGRAM ACCORD, ABATED ONLY
SOMEWHAT BY THE PARLIAMENTARY RECESS AND SUMMER
HOLIDAYS, THE DC DECIDED TO PUBLISH MAIN EXTRACTS

OF THE MAJOR SPEECH THAT PARTY SECRETARY ZACCAGNINI HAD INTENDED TO DELIVER AT THE DC NATIONAL COUNCIL ON JULY 30, A SESSION POSTPONED UNTIL SEPTEMBER WHEN ZACCAGNINI BROKE HIS LEG. AN AUTHORITATIVE STATEMENT OF DC POLICY, ZACCAGNINI'S SPEECH CONTAINS AN EXPLICIT REBUTTAL OF PCI ATTEMPTS TO PORTRAY THE ACCORD AS THE FIRST STEP TOWARD REALIZATION OF A NEW GOVERNMENT MAJORITY OF ALL THE SIX APRITES OF THE SO-CALLED CONSTITUTIONAL ARC.

2. DESCRIBING THE PCI'S INTERPRETATION AS "DISTORTED," ZACCAGNINI DENIES THAT THE SIX-PARTY ACCORD CONSTITUTES "THE ANTEROOM OF THE HISTORIC COMPROMISE" AND RULES OUT AS "UNTHINKABLE" ANY GOVERNMENT WHICH INCLUDES BOTH THE DC AND THE PCI. THE DC WILL CONTINUE TO "OPPOSE FIRMLY" ANY GOVERNMENTAL ALLIANCE WITH THE PCI FOR REASONS OF ITS "POLITICAL IDENTITY, ITS CHOICE, AND ITS ELECTORAL MANDATE." HE CALLED ON THE DC TO OPPOSE PCI AND PSI MOVES TO "BROADEN THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE ACCORD IN ORDER TO TRANSFORM IT INTO AN ORGANIC GOVERNMENT PROGRAM." INSTEAD, THE PRESENT POLITICAL PHASE SHOULD LEAD AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE TO A CLEARER DETERMINATION OF THE DISTINCT ROLES OF THE GOVERNMENT AND THE OPPOSITION. ALTHOUGH THE ACCORD ESTABLISHES A NEEDED CONSENSUS TO DEAL WITH EMERGENCY PROBLEMS PARTICULARLY IN THE AREA OF PUBLIC LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ORDER, ZACCAGNINI SIAD ITS DURATION IS "TRULY TRANSITORY". MOREOVER, THE ACCORD SPECIFICALLY LEAVES "AMPLE ROOM" FOR "CRITICISM AND EVEN OPPOSITION" ON THE PART OF THE INDIVIDUAL PARTIES WITHIN THE BROAD FRAMEWORK OF THE CONSENSUS.

3. ZACCAGNINI'S WARNINGS AGAINST PCI AND PSI "MIS-INTERPRETATIONS" OF THE ACCORD WERE ECHOED IN A WEEKEND SPEECH BY CHAMBER MAJORITY LEADER PICCOLI. SPEAKING IN LIGURIA, PICCOLI STRESSED THAT THE ACCORD "MUST REMAIN WITHIN THE TERMS IN WHICH IT WAS FORMULATED AND AGREED UPON." HE WARNED THAT THOSE WHO "WISH TO TRANSFORM IT INTO A NEW POLITICAL MAJORITY" DO EVERYONE A DISERVICE. IF THE COOPERATION ACHIEVED BETWEEN THE PARTIES "IN A TIME OF EMERGENCY" WERE SET BACK, THE COUNTRY COULD "BE BROUGHT TO THE BRINK OF A VERY DANGEROUS POLITICAL RUPTURE."

4. MEANWHILE, DC LEADERS HAVE REFRAINED FROM ARGUMENTATIVE COMMENTS ON PRIME MINISTER ANDREOTTI'S AUGUST 2 SURPRISE MEETING WITH THE SECRETAIRES OF THE SIX PARTIES WHICH SUPPORT HIS GOVERNMENT (REFTEL). THE POSITIONS

TAKEN BY VARIOUS DC PARTY LEADERS, HOWEVER, LEAVE NO DOUBT THAT ANDREOTTI'S APPARENT BID TO INSTITUTIONALIZE SUCH "CONSULTATIVE" MEETINGS ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAM ACCORD ON A MONTHLY BASIS IS OPPOSED WITHIN THE PARTY. AMPLIFYING HIS INITIAL OBJECTIONS TO PERIODIC MEETINGS, DEPUTY SECRETARY GALLONI SAID THAT "PARLIAMENT IS THE NATURAL PLACE FOR THE CONTROL OVER GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES." ANDREOTTI'S MEETING WAS JUSTIFIED SINCE PARLIAMENT WAS NOT IN SESSION. FANFANI ISSUED A STATEMENT SAYING HE FOUND NOTHING OBJECTIONABLE IN OCCASIONAL INFORMATIVE MEETINGS BETWEEN THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE PARTY SECRETARIES. HOWEVER, A PERMANENT COMMITTEE OF PARTY SECRETARIES TO CONTROL THE GOVERNMENT'S ACTIVITIES WOULD BE AN "UNCONSTITUTIONAL" INFRINGEMENT ON LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PARLIAMENT'S ROLE. REFERRRING TO THE POLITICAL PRECARIOUSNESS OF THE PROGRAM ACCORD, PICCOLI SAID IT WAS "PRECISELY FOR THIS REASON THAT THE PARTIES DID NOT IMPOSE ANY CONDITIONS FOR VERIFICATION OR CONTROL, NOR DID THEY CONDIER ANY (CONTROL) COMMITTEE OF THE PARTY SECRETARIES OR PARLIAMENTARY GROUP HEADS." THIS, PICCOLI

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SAID, WOULD HAVE MEANT "A POLITICAL SHIFT," SOMETHING THAT BOTH THE DC AND THE "GREAT MAJORITY OF ITALIANS" REFUTE.

5. ANDREOTTI HIMSELF LEFT THE QUESTION OPEN. ASKED WHETHER HE ANTICIPATED OTHER MEETINGS WITH THE PARTY SECRETARIES ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAM ACCORD, THE PRIME MINISTER REPLIED THAT FOR NOW, THERE WOULD BE "A LITTLE VACATION." AFTERWARDS, HE SAID, ONE WOULD SEE.

6. COMMENT: DC LEADERS HAVE DOWN-PLAYED LAST WEEK'S SURPRISE MEETING BETWEEN THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE PARTY SECRETARIES, CHOOSING TO EMPHASIZE ITS EXCEPTIONAL, ONE- TIME "CONSULTATIVE" NATURE AND FACT THAT PARLIAMENT (THE APPROPRIATE LOCATION FOR GOVERNMENT-PARTY CON- SULTATIONS) WAS IN RECESS. THE DC CONTINUES TO PLACE
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A HIGH PREMIUM ON PARTY UNITY, AND, IN PICCOLI'S WORDS, IS WELL AWARE OF THE DANGERS OF "UTILIZING EVERY DIFFICULTY, EVERY DOUBT, EVERY SUSPICION TO SET LOSSE A STORM." IN HIS STATEMENT, ZACCAGNINI PLEDGED THE DC'S CONTINUED SUPPORT OF THE ANDREOTTI GOVERNMENT WHICH HAD PRODUCED "EXCELLENT RESULTS." THE PARTY LEADER'S AUTHORITATIVE RESTATEMENT OF THE STRICT POLITICAL LIMITS OF THE PROGRAM ACCORD, THOUGH DIRECTED PRIMARILY AT THE PCI, WAS ALSO UNDOUBTEDLY INTENDED TO REASSURE SIGNIFICANT ELEMENTS WITHIN THE DC WHO HAVE BEEN TROUBLED BY THE INTERPARTY AGREEMENT.
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